

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

These amendments introduce no new matter and support for the changes is replete throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of any previously claimed subject matter or agreement with any objection or rejection of record.

Listing of Claims:

1. A process for suppressing the demyelination of nerve fibers in the nervous system of a human being or nonhuman primate in need of such treatment wherein said human being or nonhuman primate is treated with an amount of nerve growth factor (NGF) or with an amount of active fragments of NGF, which fragments are selected from the group consisting of NGF 2.5S, NGF 7S, and an NGF fragment consisting of amino acids 10-25 and 75-88 of NGF linked by a disulfide bridge, which amount is effective to prevent demyelination.
2. Cancelled.
3. The process according to claim 1, wherein said nerve growth factor is human NGF- β .
4. The process according to claim 1, comprising the administration of at least one protease inhibitor in combination with said NGF.
5. The process according to claim 4, wherein said protease inhibitor is aprotinin.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said NGF is administered in an amount sufficient to produce a concentration of NGF or an active fragment of NGF between 0.05 μ g and 5 μ g/kg body weight.
- 7-11. Cancelled.
12. A process for suppressing further demyelination in a human being or nonhuman primate patient having a disease in which a demyelination of nerve fibers occurs, comprising administering an amount of nerve growth factor or an amount of an active fragment thereof, which fragment is selected from the group consisting of NGF 2.5S, NGF 7S, and an NGF fragment consisting of amino acids 10-25 and 75-88 of NGF linked by a disulfide bridge, which

amount is effective to prevent further demyelination.

13. The process according to claim 12, wherein the nerve growth factor is administered intravenously or intrathecally.

14. A method for suppressing further demyelination in a human being or nonhuman primate patient having an inflammatory disease of the optic nerve, comprising administering an effective amount of NGF or an active fragment of NGF selected from the group consisting of NGF 2.5S and NGF 7S.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said effective amount of NGF or an active fragment of NGF is between 10-300 pg NGF/ml blood.

16. Cancelled.

17. A method for suppressing demyelination in a human being or nonhuman primate subject having an inflammatory disease of a nervous tissue, said method comprising administering an effective amount of NGF, or an active fragment of NGF, which active fragment is selected from the group consisting of NGF 2.5S, NGF 7S, and an NGF fragment consisting of amino acids 10-25 and 75-88 of NGF linked by a disulfide bridge, wherein said effective amount is sufficient to downregulate the production of interferon γ by T cells infiltrating the central nervous system.

18. Cancelled.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said effective amount is sufficient to upregulate the production of IL-10 in glial cells in the central nervous system.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein said inflammatory disease is autoimmune encephalomyelitis encephalomyelitis.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein said inflammatory disease is multiple sclerosis.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein said subject is a human.

23. The method of claim 17, wherein said subject is a non-human mammal.

24. Cancelled.

25. The method of claim 17, wherein said NGF is human NGF- β .

26. Cancelled.

27. Cancelled.

28. Cancelled.